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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/619,949	07/15/2003	Alex A. Kouznetsov	BRI/019	7830

7590 12/30/2003
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EXAMINER

BLACKNER, HENRY A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3641

DATE MAILED: 12/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/619,949

Applicant(s)

KOUZNETSOV, ALEX A.

Examiner

Henry A. Blackner

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 July 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609 A(1) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

1. CEN Document: prCEN/TS 13763-27 (NMP 898/FABERG N 0090 D/E) E 2002-06-19, paragraph 19, line 12.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show that pin 13 is grounded, figure 4, as described in the specification. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: 18' (figure 2) and 21 (figure 3). A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office

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action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informality: In the phrase “flag indicates whether or not the device has been *been* detected on the bus”, paragraph 42 lines 4-5; suggest deleting the duplicate term “been”, for clarity.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

Claims 9 and 12 are objected to because of the following informalities:

1. In regards to claim 9, the term “clock value”, line 2, was previously identified as a “*sequential* clock value”.
2. In regards to claim 12, the term “detonator”, line 1, was previously identified as an “*electronic* detonator”.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 15 recites the limitation "the issuance" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S.

Patent No. 5,014,622 to Jullian.

In regards to claim 1, Jullian clearly discloses, a method of identifying slave devices in a system (10) including a master device (18, 20) and a number of slave devices (EBC1, EBC2, EBC3), comprising the following steps: a) providing each slave device in the system with an identification, b) connecting at least one slave device to the system, c) issuing a command on the system from the master device, and d) issuing a response from any slave devices on the system for which identification information has not been loaded in the master device, the response including the slave device's identification, in figures 1 and 7, column 3 lines 30-42 and lines 55-68, column 4 lines 1-6, column 5 lines 40-54, column 7 lines 1-21, lines 28-34, and lines 61-66, column 11 lines 18-42, column 12 lines 17-23 and lines 31-68, column 13 lines 1-14 and lines 27-68, and column 14 lines 1-23.

In regards to claim 2, Jullian clearly discloses, wherein the response further includes other information pertaining to the slave device, in column 7 lines 61-65.

In regards to claim 3, Jullian clearly discloses, the method further comprising the step of the master device issuing a request for other information to any slave devices that responded in

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step d), in column 12 lines 17-23 and lines 31-68, column 13 lines 1-14 and lines 27-68, and column 14 lines 1-23.

In regards to claim 4, Jullian clearly discloses, wherein if a device responds in step d), step c) is repeated until no device responds in step d), in column 17 lines 29-36.

In regards to claim 5, Jullian clearly discloses, wherein the system and slave devices are configured and/or programmed so as to preclude more than one device from simultaneously responding in step d), in column 16 lines 48-68 and column 17 lines 1-25.

In regards to claim 6, Jullian inherently discloses, the method further comprising the step of logging the identifications of a number of slave devices and then loading information including the identifications into the master device, in the rejection of corresponding parts of claim 1, above.

In regards to claim 7, Jullian inherently discloses, the method further comprising the step of setting a detection status flag high in each slave device the identification of which has been logged, in column 15 lines 22-61.

In regards to claim 8, Jullian inherently discloses, the method further comprising the step of issuing a clock sequence on the system after issuing the command, the clock sequence comprising the issuance of sequential clock values, in column 16 lines 48-68, and column 17 lines 1-25 and lines 29-58.

In regards to claim 9, Jullian inherently discloses, wherein step d) is carried out by a slave device after the issuance of a clock value correlated to the identification of the slave device, in the rejection of corresponding parts of claim 8, above.

In regards to claim 10, Jullian inherently discloses, the method further comprising the step of setting a detection status flag high in any slave devices that responded in step d), in column 15 lines 22-61.

In regards to claim 11, Jullian clearly discloses, wherein the system is an electronic blasting system, the master device is a blasting machine, and the slave device is an electronic detonator, in column 3 lines 30-42.

In regards to claim 12, Jullian clearly discloses, wherein the detonator is programmable, in column 3 lines 55-68 and column 4 lines 1-6.

In regards to claim 13, Jullian inherently discloses, wherein the command is issued along with data representing the identification of all known slave devices, and step d) includes the step of each slave device receiving the command, checking the data against the identification provided to the slave device in step a), in the rejection of corresponding parts of claim 1, above.

In regards to claim 14, Jullian inherently discloses, a slave device (EBC1) for use in a system (10) including a master device (18, 20) and other slave devices (EBC2, EBC3), the slave device having an identification and being configured and/or programmed to issue a response to the master device including the identification of the slave device in response to a command from the master device if the slave device has not been identified to the master device, in figures 1 and 7, column 3 lines 30-42 and lines 55-68, column 4 lines 1-6, column 5 lines 40-54, column 7 lines 1-21, lines 28-34, and lines 61-66, column 11 lines 18-42, column 12 lines 17-23 and lines 31-68, column 13 lines 1-14 and lines 27-68, and column 14 lines 1-23.

In regards to claim 15, Jullian inherently discloses, wherein the slave device is configured and/or programmed to issue the response upon the issuance on the system of a clock value

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correlated to the identification of the slave device, in column 16 lines 48-68, and column 17 lines 1-25 and lines 29-58.

In regards to claim 16, Jullian clearly discloses, wherein the slave device is further configured and/or programmed to include other information along with the response, in column 7 lines 61-65.

In regards to claim 17, Jullian clearly discloses, wherein the slave device is an electronic detonator, in column 3 lines 30-42.

In regards to claim 18, Jullian inherently discloses, a system (10) including a master device (18, 20) and slave devices (EBC1, EBC2, EBC3) each having an identification, the system being configured and/or programmed to send the identification to the master device of any slave devices connected to the system that have not been identified to the master device, in figures 1 and 7, column 3 lines 30-42 and lines 55-68, column 4 lines 1-6, column 5 lines 40-54, column 7 lines 1-21, lines 28-34, and lines 61-66, column 11 lines 18-42, column 12 lines 17-23 and lines 31-68, column 13 lines 1-14 and lines 27-68, and column 14 lines 1-23.

In regards to claim 19, Jullian inherently discloses, wherein the slave devices include detection flag status settings that can be set high or low, in column 15 lines 22-61.

In regards to claim 20, Jullian clearly discloses, wherein the system is an electronic blasting system, the master device is a blasting machine, and the slave devices are electronic detonators, in column 3 lines 30-42.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following documents show the state of the art in the field of Method of Identifying an unknown or unmarked Slave Device such as in an Electronic Blasting System.

U.S. Patent No. 6,618,237 B2 to Eddy et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,584,907 B2 to Boucher et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,418,853 B1 to Duguet et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,173,651 B1 to Pathe et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,000,338 to Shann

U.S. Patent No. 5,894,103 to Shann

U.S. Patent No. 5,520,114 to Guimard et al.

U.S. Patent No. 4,674,047 to Tyler et al.

Foreign Patent No. WO 93/18366 to Shann

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Henry A. Blackner whose telephone number is 703-305-4799. The examiner can normally be reached on 09:15 - 17:45.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Carone can be reached on 703-306-4198. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9326.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5771.

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23 December 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harold J. Tudor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Harold" and last name "Tudor" clearly distinguishable.

HAROLD J. TUDOR
PRIMARY EXAMINER